

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 EC BRU 01662 222040Z

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /046 W

-----222102 002803 /66

R 221722Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3089

INFO ALL EC CAPITSLS 3171

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 01662

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES: "PAN-EUROPEAN" MEETING

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 11609 AND (B) EC BRUSSELS 162

1. JOHN VANDERVEKEN, ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU), FEB 21 PROVIDED US WITH AN UPDATE ON THE "PAN-EUROPEAN" (OR EAST-WEST) LABOR CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN GENEVA MARCH 5-6. HIS KEY POINTS WERE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 EC BRU 01662 222040Z

A. NO MEMBER OF THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE. THE ICFTU RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND (IRONICALLY FROM THE ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, JOSE AGUIRIANO, IN HIS CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF THE ILO WORKERS' GROUP), BUT DID NOT RESPOND.

B. JAN KULAKOWSKI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), AND GERAD FONTENEAU, WCL ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY, WILL ATTEND THE GENEVA MEETING. THE ICFTU LEARNED OF THIS FROM ITS GENEVA OFFICE, NOT DIRECTLY FROM KULAKOWSKI. (RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ICFTU AND THE WCL ARE COOL.)

C. PRIOR TO THE FEBRUARY 1975 EAST-WEST-LABOR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, OTTO KERSTEN, ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY, AND JEAN BRUCK, THEN WCL GENERAL SECRETARY, CAUCUSED TO DISCUSS STRATEGY FOR THE MEETING, EVEN THOUGH NEITHER ATTENDED. THIS TIME NO SUCH CAUCUS BETWEEN KULAKOWSKI AND KERSTEN IS SCHEDULED.

D. MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), HAS DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND THE GENEVA MEETING, BUT AN ETUC ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY WILL PROBABLY GO. THIS MEANS THAT KULAKOWSKI WILL BE THE HIGHEST-RANKING SECRETARIAT LEADER FROM A NON-COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION.

E. SO FAR THE FRENCH FO AND THE DANISH LO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE. IN A LETTER DECLINING THE INVITATION, LO PRESIDENT THOMAS NIELSON EXPLAINED THAT THE DATE OF THE GENEVA MEETING CONFLICTED WITH HIS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS. NIELSON ADDED A MORE FUNDAMENTAL REASON: HE QUESTIONED INCLUDING THE AGENDA ITEM OF "WORKER'S EDUCATION" IN A MEETING WHOSE PARTICIPANTS APPROACHED TRADE UNION RIGHTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 EC BRU 01662 222040Z

IN SO FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT A FASHION.

F. THE ITALIAN CISL HAS DECIDED TO BE REPRESENTED BY A DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY, NOT BY ITS GENERAL SECRETARY. SOME OTHER ICFTU AFFILIATES MAY ALSO DOWNPLAY THE MEETING BY SENDING THEIR NO. 2 MAN. BUT IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO TRY TO LIMIT ATTENDANCE TO TECHNICIANS SINCE "TECHNICIANS CAN ALWAYS FIND A REASON TO HOLD MORE MEETINGS."

G. THE ICFTU'S STRATEGY REMAINS ONE OF TRYING TO AVOID ANOTHER CONFERENCE OF THIS KIND, WITH A FALLBACK POSITION OF LIMITING SUCH MEETINGS TO THE ILO FRAMEWORK IN THREE WAYS --PHYSICALLY HOLDING THE MEETINGS IN AN ILO SETTING, SCHEDULING IT DURING OR JUST BEFORE OR AFTER AN OFFICIAL ILO MEETING OF SOME SORT, AND KEEPING THE SUBJECT MATTERS WITHIN THE ILO AREA OF COMPETENCE. KERSTEN RESTATED THIS APPROACH IN A LETTER TO EUROPEAN

AFFILIATES ON JAN. 17 (SE DO NOT HAVE THE TEXT).  
THE BRITISH TUC AND NORWEGIAN LO HAVE "UNOFFICIALLY"  
REACTED AGAINST THIS KERSTEN LETTER AS BEING TOO  
NEGATIVE , AND HAVE ARGUED THAT THE MEETING, IN A  
"HARMLESS" WAY, RELIEVES DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNIST PRESSURES THAT OTHERWISE MIGHT RESULT IN  
MORE "SERIOUS" MEETINGS.

2. VANDERVEKEN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS UNCERTAIN  
WHAT WOULD EMERGE FROM ALL SUCH CROSS -CURRENTS, HE  
WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE MEETINGS DISCUSSION  
CAUSE THE RUSSIANS TO LOSE INTEREST IN HOLDING ANOTHER  
ONE. "WHAT IF SOMEBODY BRINGS UP WHAT'S HAPPENING IN  
POLAND OR CZECHOSLOVAKIA?" HE SPECULATED. IF NOBODY  
ELSE DARES RAISE THE SUBJECT, THE FRENCH CGT OR THE  
ITALIAN CGIL MIGHT, ACCORDING TO VANDERVEKEN. THE  
CGIL, FOR ONE, HAS PERIODICALLY CRITICIZED POLISH  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 EC BRU 01662 222040Z

REPRESSION OF TRADE UNION FREEDOM, MOST NOTABLY (BUT  
WITHOUT PUBLICITY) IN AN ELOQUENT STATEMENT AT THE  
ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN DECEMBER. MORRIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, COMMUNISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ECBRU01662  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770061-0982  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** EC BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770222/aaaaatky.tel  
**Line Count:** 142  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c342f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SIL  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 EC BRUSSELS 11609, 77 EC BRUSSELS 162  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3267912  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES: \"PAN-EUROPEAN\" MEETING  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, ICFTU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c342f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009